

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 OMB-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 IO-10 OIC-02 AF-06

ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 SP-02 L-03 H-02 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 NSF-02

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R 041439Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0051

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 14275

DEPT FOR OES, PASS NBS, DR. ROBERTS, DR. AMBLER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, TGEN, AFIN, IBWM

SUBJECT: FIFTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF WEIGHTS
AND MEASURES (CGPM)

SUMMARY: FIFTEENTH CGPM CONCLUDED SESSION
JUNE 2 WITH ADOPTION 4-YEAR BUDGET AND ELECTION
MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

1. BY ROLL CALL VOTE OF 30 IN FAVOR AND EIGHT AB-
STENTIONS (CHILE, INDONESIA, ITALY, POLAND, ROMANIA,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THAILAND, AND USSR) CGPM ADOPTED
FOLLOWING BUDGET FOR 1977-1980:

1977 - 5,310,000 GOLD FRANCS

1978 - 5,950,000 GOLD FRANCS

1979 - 6,660,000 GOLD FRANCS

1980 - 7,460,000 GOLD FRANCS

UNDER CGPM CONVENTION, UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THOSE
VOTING, ABSTENTIONS NOT COUNTING, IS NECESSARY
FOR ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET; I.E., A SINGLE NEGATIVE
VOTE IS SUFFICIENT TO DEFEAT THE BUDGET PROPOSAL.

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2. BUDGET AS ADOPTED REPRESENTS SLIGHT REDUCTION

FROM THAT PRESENTED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE (TERRIEN LETTER APRIL 9, 1975). AS RESULT, APPLICATION 12 PERCENT RATHER THAN 13 PERCENT PER ANNUM INFLATION FACTOR.

3. LOWER FIGURE PROPOSED BY USSR AT BUDGET WORKING GROUP AS COMPROMISE BETWEEN 10 PERCENT WHICH FAVORED PRINCIPALLY BY USSR AND FRG DELS AND (INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE PROPOSAL) OF 13 PERCENT, WHICH SUPPORTED AS REASONABLE BY US, UK, FRANCE, JAPAN, AND OTHERS. FLEXIBILITY PROVISION PROPOSED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE (PARA 2 PAGE 3, TERRIEN LETTER), TO BE INVOKED IN EVENT INFLATION EXCEEDED 12 PERCENT, DROPPED AT WORKING GROUP STAGE IN FACE OF ADAMANT OPPOSITION BY USSR DEL. AS ALTERNATIVE, USSR PROPOSED THAT CONFERENCE CALL EXTRAORDINARY SESSION SOLELY TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL QUESTION, SHOULD INFLATIONARY TREND RISE SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE PROJECTED 12 PERCENT. THIS WAS SOLUTION ADOPTED AND 15TH CGPM WAS NOT ADJOURNED, LEAVING OPEN POSSIBILITY FOR RESUMED SESSION IF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES ARE ENCOUNTERED. DECISION TO CALL FOR RESUMED SESSION IS RESPONSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

4. USSR DELEGATION, AT WORKING GROUP STAGE, ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT REQUEST PROVISION IN BUDGET RESOLUTION PERMITTING PARTIAL PAYMENT ASSESSMENT IN NATIONAL CURRENCIES. SINCE NO OTHER DELEGATION REQUESTED SUCH PROVISION, CGPM NOW FREE OF THIS PARTICULAR ALBATROSS.

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5. IN EXPLANATION OF ABSTENTION, CHILE STATED IT BELIEVED CONFERENCE SHOULD REDUCE MINIMUM ASSESSMENT IN ORDER ENCOURAGE MORE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO JOIN CGPM. THIS POSITION ENDORSED BY SPAIN. CONFERENCE AGREED WITH CHAIR'S RULING THIS PROPOSAL COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED BY 15TH CGPM BUT WOULD BE STUDIED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR POSSIBLE PRESENTATION TO 16TH CONFERENCE.

6. USSR, ALTHOUGH LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPROMISE REFLECTED IN BUDGET AS ADOPTED, IN EXPLAINING ABSTENTION, STATED THAT BUDGET REPRESENTED UNACCEPTABLE INCREASE OVER PREVIOUS QUADRENNIUM, SINCE BASE INCLUDED ASSESSMENTS NEW MEMBERS JOINING SINCE LAST CONFERENCE; I.E., CAMEROON, IRAN, PAKISTAN, ASSESSMENTS TOTALLING \$70,050.

7. DR. ERNEST AMBLER (US) UNANIMOUSLY REELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

8. OTERO (SPAIN), ILL AND NOT PRESENT DURING SESSION, SUBMITTED RESIGNATION AS PRESIDENT CGPM AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL BE SUCCEDED BY VICE PRESIDENT DUNWORTH (UK).

9. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESOLUTIONS WILL BE REPORTED IN DELEGATION'S FORMAL REPORT.

10. THE WILLINGNESS OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO COMPROMISE ON ONE ISSUE AND TO COMPLETELY REMOVE THEIR REQUIREMENTS ON ANOTHER, AND THE GENERALLY UNANIMOUS POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS MADE AT THE CONFERENCE WE ATTRIBUTE TO TWO MAJOR FACTORS: (1) THE GROWING RECOGNITION BY MANY NATIONS OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A SOUND INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORGANIZATION; AND (2) THE EXCELLENT PREPARATORY STAFF WORK AND ADROIT

MANAGEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE SESSIONS AS EXECUTED
BY THE COUNCIL'S PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.
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